

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) An air bag apparatus for shielding a
vehicle occupant in the event of a side crash, said air bag apparatus
2 comprising:
3 an acceleration sensor which detects acceleration in a side direction
4 larger than a predetermined value to generate a detection signal;
5 an inflater which generates a gas in response to said detection signal;
6 and
7 an air bag which is folded initially, and expands with said gas,
8 wherein said air bag comprises a main section and a protrusion section which is
9 provided attached to and extending outwardly away from ~~at~~ a tip portion of
10 said main section such that an inner space of said protrusion section is
11 connected with an inner space of said main section, said protrusion section
12 having at least one opening formed therein from which said gas is spouted.
- 1 2. (Currently Amended) The air bag apparatus according to claim 1,
2 wherein said protrusion section extends beyond said main section and
3 comprises has-a semi-cylindrical pipe shape with openings formed therein at
4 opposing ends thereof.
- 1 3. (Currently Amended) The air bag apparatus according to claim 1,
2 wherein said protrusion section is narrower than said tip portion of said main
3 section and has said at least one opening in a portion thereof connected with
4 and spaced away from said main section.

1 4. (Previously amended) The air bag apparatus according to claim 1,
2 wherein said protrusion section is pushed into the inner space of said main
3 section prior to expansion.

1 5. (Currently amended) An air bag apparatus for shielding a vehicle
2 occupant in the event of a side crash, said air bag apparatus comprising:
3 an acceleration sensor which detects acceleration in a side direction
4 larger than a predetermined value to generate a detection signal;
5 an inflater which generates a gas in response to said detection signal;
6 and
7 an air bag which is folded initially, and expands with said gas,
8 wherein said air bag comprises a main section and a protrusion section which is
9 provided attached to and extending outwardly away from a tip portion of said
10 main section such that an inner space of said protrusion section is connected
11 with an inner space of said main section, said protrusion section having at least
12 one opening formed therein from which said gas is spouted;
13 wherein said protrusion section is pushed into the inner space of said
14 main section prior to expansion such that said protrusion section is turned
15 inside out.

1 6. (Currently amended) The air bag apparatus according to claim 1,
2 wherein said main section comprises first and second side panels, which are
3 sewed in a limb portion for contacting a limb of a vehicle occupant, such that
4 outer surfaces of said first and second side panels are joined to each other.

1 7. (Currently amended) The air bag apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
2 said main section comprises first and second side panels, and further wherein
3 said air bag has at least one partition provided between said side panels in said
4 inner space of said main section.

1 8. (Original Claim) The air bag apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said
2 at least one partition is formed by sewing a predetermined portion of said first
3 and second side panels.

1 9. (Previously amended) The air bag apparatus according to claim 8,
2 wherein said predetermined portion is shaped as a curved line.

1 10. (Previously amended) The air bag apparatus according to claim 8,
2 wherein said predetermined portion is shaped as a circle.

1 11. (Previously amended) The air bag apparatus according to claim 8,
2 wherein said predetermined portion is shaped as a semicircle.

1 12. (Previously amended) The air bag apparatus according to claim 7,
2 wherein said predetermined portion determines an expansion direction of said
3 air bag during an expanding process.

1 13. (Currently Amended) An air bag apparatus for side crash, comprising:
2 an acceleration sensor which detects acceleration in a side direction
3 larger than a predetermined value to generate a detection signal;
4 an inflater which generates a gas in response to said detection signal;
5 and

6 an air bag which is folded initially, and expands with said gas
7 substantially in parallel to a linear expansion direction, wherein said air bag
8 has at least one partition provided in an inner space of said air bag.

1 14. (Currently Amended) The air bag apparatus according to claim 13,
2 wherein said air bag comprises first and second side panels, which are sewed in
3 a limb portion such that outer surfaces-edges of said first and second side
4 panels are joined to each other.

1 15. (Currently amended) The air bag apparatus according to claim 13,
2 wherein said air bag comprises first and second side panels, and further
3 wherein said at least one partition is formed by sewing a predetermined portion
4 of said first and second side panels.

1 16. (Previously amended) The air bag apparatus according to claim 15,
2 wherein said predetermined portion is shaped as a curved line.

1 17. (Previously amended) The air bag apparatus according to claim 15,
2 wherein said predetermined portion is shaped as a circle.

1 18. (Previously amended) The air bag apparatus according to claim 15,
2 wherein said predetermined portion is shaped as a semicircle.

1 19. (Previously amended) The air bag apparatus according to claim 13, wherein
2 said predetermined portion determines an expansion direction of said air bag
3 during an expanding process.

1 20. (Currently Amended) An air bag used for an air bag apparatus for
2 shielding a vehicle occupant in the event of a side crash, said air bag
3 comprising:

4 a main section; and

5 a protrusion section which is provided-attached to and extends
6 outwardly away from at a tip portion of said main section in an expanded
7 configuration of said air bag such that an inner space of said protrusion section
8 is connected with an inner space of said main section,

9 wherein said air bag is folded initially, and expands with a gas from
10 an inflater, and said protrusion section has at least one opening formed therein
11 from which said gas is spouted.

1 21. (Currently amended) The air bag according to claim 20, wherein said
2 protrusion section extends outwardly beyond the main section and has
3 comprises a semi-cylindrical pipe shape with openings formed therein at
4 opposing ends thereof.

1 22. (Currently amended) The air bag according to claim 20, wherein
2 said protrusion section is narrower than said tip portion and has said at least
3 one opening in a portion thereof connected with said main section and spaced
4 away therefrom, and wherein upon deployment of said air bag, gas is expelled
5 from said opening in a direction substantially perpendicular to a substantially
6 linear expansion direction.

1 23. (Previously amended) The air bag according to claim 20, wherein
2 said protrusion section is pushed into the inner space of said main section prior
3 to expansion.

1 24. (Currently amended) An ~~The~~ air bag of claim 20, for use in an air
2 bag apparatus to shield a vehicle occupant in the event of a side crash, said air
3 bag comprising:

4 a main section; and

5 a protrusion section which is attached to and extends outwardly away
6 from a tip portion of said main section in an expanded configuration of said air
7 bag such that an inner space of said protrusion section is connected with an
8 inner space of said main section,

9 wherein said air bag is folded initially, and expands with a gas from
10 an inflater, and said protrusion section has at least one opening formed therein
11 from which said gas is spouted;

12 wherein said protrusion section is pushed into the inner space of
13 said main section prior to expansion such that said protrusion section is turned
14 inside out.

1 25. (Currently amended) An air bag used for an air bag apparatus
2 shielding a vehicle occupant in the event of a side crash, said air bag
3 comprising first and second side panels,

4 wherein said first and second side panels are sewed in a limb portion
5 such that outer surfaces of said first and second side panels are joined to each
6 other, and

7 wherein said air bag further comprises at least one partition provided
8 in an inner space of said air bag, said air bag [which] is folded initially, and
9 expands with gas supplied from an inflater substantially in parallel to a linear
10 expansion direction.

1 26. (Original claim) The air bag apparatus according to claim 25,
2 wherein said at least one partition is formed by sewing a predetermined portion
3 of said first and second side panels.

1 27. (Previously amended) The air bag apparatus according to claim 25,
2 wherein said predetermined portion is shaped as a curved line.

1 28. (Previously amended) The air bag apparatus according to claim 25,
2 wherein said predetermined portion is shaped as a circle.

1 29. (Previously amended) The air bag apparatus according to claim 25,
2 wherein said predetermined portion is shaped as a semicircle.